

Michigan Conservation District's Wetlands Local Assistance Pilot Program

In accordance with amendments to Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, that became effective November 6, 2009, the MDNRE is implementing a pilot program to facilitate the role of local units of government, conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, and wetland professionals in assisting interested persons with complying with Part 303.

The MDNRE selected as one of three pilots, a three county program with the Calhoun, Delta and Muskegon Conservation Districts. The program will provide comprehensive wetland local assistance through Conservation Districts, providing the opportunity to evaluate the utilization of Conservation Districts in different geographic and socio-economic areas, as effective MDNRE partners in the protection of wetlands in Michigan.

Conservation Districts will:

- Conduct on-site visits for all wetland inquiries.
- Provide proactive education, information during on-site visits.
- Provide permit application information and assistance.
- Provide site assessment including aquatic resources located on the property (aerial photo, soils map, etc.), and any other known Federal, State, and/or local permits needed.
- The Conservation Districts will not indicate whether or not a permit will be issued by the MDNRE.
- Provide further assistance if necessary, including connections to appropriate service providers and natural resource programs.
- Notify the MDEQ of any aquatic resource violations that it finds.
- Coordinate natural resource assistance to private landowners and encourage private sector professionals to provide assistance.
- Promote the program and the overall benefits of wetlands through media, workshops, and meetings.
- Work closely with MDNRE staff to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the pilot program and permitting process; including work with regional MDEQ District offices and permitting staff.

Pilot Counties: Calhoun, Delta, Muskegon



Michigan's 79 Conservation Districts are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

As local, special purpose units of state government, each Conservation District is governed by a locally elected, five-member board of directors. The guiding philosophy of Michigan Conservation Districts is that local people should make decisions on conservation issues at the local level, with technical assistance provided by government.

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